

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 052499
ORIGIN IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 ONY-00 SSO-00 SS-15 /042 R

DRAFTED BY IO/UNA:JFTEFFT:BJS

APPROVED BY IO:GDALLEY

EUR/RPM:JKORNBLUM(SUB)

EUR/SOV:LWILLEMS(SUB)

DESIRED DISTRIBUTION

EUR AND IO DISTRIBUTION ONLY

-----078114 012012Z /40

O 011957Z MAR 78 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 052499

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

FOR USDEL TO HRC

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, UNHRC

SUBJECT 34TH HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION STATEMENT ON

SOVIET JEWRY

REF: STATE 52213

1. THERE FOLLOWS FURTHER MATERIAL ON SOVIET JEWS FOR
USE BY USDEL IN PREPARING DRAFT STATEMENT ON SUBJECT
FOR HRC.

2. FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS DRAWN FROM SECTION ON
TREATMENT OF MINORITIES IN SOVIET UNION IN BACKGROUND PAPER
PREPARED FOR CSCE DELEGATION ON PROTECTION OF HUMAN
RIGHTS IN THE USA, USSR, AND EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES.
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 052499

COPY HAD BEEN POUCHED TO DELEGATION. BEGIN TEXT:

JEWS IN THE SOVIET UNION ARE CONSIDERED MEMBERS OF A
DISTINCT NATIONALITY GROUP, NOT JUST ADHERENTS TO A
PARTICULAR RELIGIOUS FAITH. DESPITE SOVIET CLAIMS THAT
THERE IS NO DISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF NATIONALITY
AND ALL GROUPS ARE ENCOURAGED TO DEVELOP CULTURALLY,
JEWISH RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS HAVE BEEN ALL
BUT SUPPRESSED, AND JEWS ARE BEING EXCLUDED FROM MANY
AREAS OF SOVIET LIFE. CAREERS WHICH THEY HAVE ENTERED

IN GREAT NUMBERS AFTER THE REVOLUTION HAVE, SINCE THE

LATE 1960'S, BEEN CLOSED TO THEM AND THEY ARE INCREASINGLY EXCLUDED FROM UNIVERSITIES AND INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING. PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGNS, OSTENSIBLY DIRECTED AGAINST ZIONISM, HAVE TAKEN ON OVERTLY ANTI-SEMITIC OVERTONES AND PRESSURES FOR ASSIMILATION ARE MUCH STRONGER.

THERE ARE CURRENTLY NO JEWISH PUBLISHING HOUSES OR BOOK DISTRIBUTING AGENCIES, AND IN THE PERIOD OF 1955-1970, ONLY 50 TITLES IN YIDDISH WERE PUBLISHED, COMPARED TO 850 IN THE YEARS 1932-1939. THERE IS ONE CENTRAL YIDDISH LANGUAGE JOURNAL, SOVETISHE HEIMLAND, AND A SINGLE YIDDISH NEWSPAPER, THE BIROBIDZHANER SHTERN, PUBLISHED IN THE JEWISH AUTONOMOUS OBLAST, FOR THE OVER 500,000 JEWS IN THE USSR WHO LISTED YIDDISH AS THEIR MOTHER TONGUE IN THE 1970 CENSUS. OF THE TEN PERMANENT PROFESSIONAL YIDDISH THEATRES ACTIVE BEFORE WORLD WAR II, NOT ONE REMAINS. NO YIDDISH SCHOOLS EXIST AT PRESENT, ALTHOUGH 100,000 PERSONS WERE ENROLLED IN SUCH SCHOOLS PRIOR TO WORLD WAR II. AS A RESULT, THE NUMBER OF JEWS LISTING YIDDISH AS THEIR FIRST LANGUAGE HAS DECLINED BETWEEN 1959-1970 FROM 21.5 TO
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 052499

17.7 ALTHOUGH SOME 25.5 KNOW YIDDISH.

PARALLELING THE RESTRICTIONS ON YIDDISH CULTURAL LIFE HAS BEEN THE EFFORT TO CLAMP DOWN ON JEWISH RELIGIOUS PRACTICE. OF 450 SYNAGOGUES EXISTING IN 1956, ONLY 65 REMAIN, AND LESS THAN A DOZEN ARE FUNCTIONING. THERE IS ONLY ONE JEWISH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, IN MOSCOW, AND IT HAS NOT GRADUATED ANY RABBIS IN RECENT YEARS. ONLY A FEW RABBIS REMAIN IN THE COUNTRY AS A WHOLE. JEWISH PRAYER BOOKS ARE NOT PUBLISHED IN THE SOVIET UNION, NOR ARE ANY JEWISH RELIGIOUS PERIODICALS ALLOWED (ORTHODOX AND BAPTIST GROUPS HAVE SUCH PUBLICATIONS). LIMITED NUMBERS OF PRAYER BOOKS FROM THE WEST WERE PERMITTED INTO THE USSR IN 1968 AND AGAIN IN 1976-1977, BUT THEY DID NOT SATISFY THE DEMAND. JEWISH RELIGIOUS ARTICLES AND SERVICES (PRAYER SHAWLS, PHYLACTERIES, RELIGIOUS CALENDARS, KOSHER BUTCHERS) HAVE BEEN SEVERELY LIMITED OR NOT PRODUCED AT ALL. SINCE IT IS THE STATE WHICH AUTHORIZES PRODUCTION OF THESE ITEMS, FAILURE TO PROVIDE THEM MUST BE SEEN AS A DELIBERATE POLICY OF DISCRIMINATION.

DISCRIMINATION AGAINST JEWS IN PROFESSIONAL AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY HAS BEEN SYSTEMATICALLY GROWING. ALTHOUGH JEWS ACCOUNT FOR ONLY .9 OF THE POPULATION OF THE USSR, THEY CONSTITUTE A DISPROPORTIONATELY HIGH

NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS WITH HIGHER EDUCATION AND SCIENTIFIC/TECHNICAL SKILLS. ACCORDING TO A 1965 SURVEY, JEWS RANKED THIRD IN NUMBER OF GRADUATE SPECIALISTS EMPLOYED IN THE NATIONAL ECONOMY, ACCOUNTING FOR 9 OF ALL SCIENTIFIC TECHNICAL WORKERS IN THE USSR. THEY HOLD THE THIRD LARGEST NUMBER OF CANDIDATE OF SCIENCE DEGREES (AFTER RUSSIANS AND UKRAINIANS) AND THE SECOND LARGEST NUMBER OF DOCTOR OF SCIENCE DEGREES, WITH THE RUSSIANS IN FIRST PLACE.
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 052499

BEGINNING IN THE MID TO LATE 1960'S HOWEVER, THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES BEGAN RESTRICTING ENTRANCE OF JEWS INTO UNIVERSITIES. EARLIER QUOTA SYSTEMS HAD REDUCED THE PERCENTAGE BUT NOT THE ABSOLUTE NUMBERS OF JEWISH STUDENTS SINCE OVERALL HIGHER EDUCATION ENROLLMENT WAS GROWING. AFTER 1968, THE ABSOLUTE NUMBERS BEGAN TO FALL: IN 1969, JEWISH ENROLLMENT WAS 111,900; BY 1973, IT HAD DROPPED TO 88,500; AND BY 1975 HAD PLUMMETED TO 72,250, A 30 DECREASE IN 7 YEARS. A SIMILAR DECLINE TOOK PLACE ON THE GRADUATE LEVEL. BETWEEN 1970-1973, JEWISH POST-GRADUATE STUDENTS FELL FROM 5,000 TO 3,500.

ALONG WITH RESTRICTIONS ON JEWISH STUDENTS IN INSTITUTES OF HIGHER LEARNING HAS BEEN A CONSCIOUS POLICY OF EXCLUDING JEWS FROM HIGHER ADMINISTRATIVE POSITIONS IN SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTES, ESPECIALLY THOSE DEALING WITH DEFENSE OR SECURITY MATTERS, AND FROM TEACHING IN THE UNIVERSITIES. SURVEYS HAVE SHOWN THAT THE AVERAGE AGE OF JEWISH SCIENTISTS AT VARIOUS INSTITUTES IS CONSIDERABLY HIGHER THAN THAT OF NON-JEWISH EMPLOYEES; IN ONE STUDY IN THE UKRAINE, THE AVERAGE AGE FOR THE JEWS WAS FROM 2.2 TO 12.7 YEARS HIGHER IN MOST DISCIPLINES. JEWS HAVE BEEN ALMOST TOTALLY EXCLUDED FROM CERTAIN OTHER CAREERS IN WHICH THEY FIGURED PROMINENTLY SINCE THE REVOLUTION INCLUDING THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE, THE MILITARY, SECURITY AND FOREIGN TRADE AGENCIES. IN THESE FIELDS THERE ARE ALMOST NO JEWS UNDER THE AGE OF FORTY.

FINALLY, THE DE FACTO DISCRIMINATORY PRACTICES AGAINST JEWS HAVE BEEN ACCOMPANIED BY AN INTENSIVE MEDIA CAMPAIGN ATTACKING JEWISH RELIGION AND CULTURE
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 05 STATE 052499

UNDER THE GUISE OF COMBATTING ZIONISM. ALTHOUGH THE RECENT PRESS AND TELEVISION ATTACKS ARE OSTENSIBLY AIMED AT ELIMINATING HARMFUL RELIGIOUS SUPERSTITIONS AND EMPHASIZING THE UNITY OF SOVIET CULTURE, THEY HAVE OVERTLY ANTI-SEMITIC OVERTONES AND BLUR THE DISTINCTION

BETWEEN "ZIONISTS" AND JEWS IN GENERAL. THESE PIECES, SUCH AS THE PROGRAM, BUYERS OF SOULS, BROADCAST ON NATIONAL TELEVISION ON JANUARY 22 AND AGAIN ON MARCH 11, FOSTER THE STEREOTYPE OF JEWS AS MONEY-GRUBBERS INVOLVED IN A GLOBAL ZIONISH CONSPIRACY. THOSE JEWS WHO APPLY TO EMIGRATE ARE DEPICTED AS DISLOYAL OR SUBVERSIVE AND ALIEN TO THE SOVIET UNION. ANY ATTEMPT BY JEWS TO PRESERVE THEIR CULTURAL HERITAGE IS BRANDED AS "ZIONIST" OR CONTRARY TO LAW, INCLUDING THE PRIVATE HEBREW STUDY GROUPS (SINGLED OUT BY IZVESTIYA, DECEMBER 24, 1976) AND THE ATTEMPTED ORGANIZATION OF A SYMPOSIUM ON JEWISH CULTURAL THEMES WHICH WAS BROKEN UP BY THE AUTHORITIES IN DECEMBER 1976 (UNDER THE PRETEXT THAT IT WAS "ANTI-SOVIET" AND "ZIONIST"). OTHER ARTICLES HAVE ATTACKED THE THEME OF JEWISH ETHNIC IDENTITY AND THE UNITY OF JEWISH CULTURE AS "EXCLUSIVE" AND "RACIST" AND HAVE EVEN GONE SO FAR AS TO ACCUSE THE JEWS OF COLLABORATING WITH THE NAZIS (OGONEK, JANUARY 29 "THE ESPIONAGE OCTOPUS OF JEWS"). ALL THESE EFFORTS HAVE THE EFFECT OF STIRRING UP ANTI-SEMITIC FEELINGS. END TEXT.

3. FOLLOWING IS EXCERPT FROM STATEMENT BY MRS. RITA E. HAUSER AT HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING, MARCH 1970, ON THE QUESTION OF THE VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS. BEGIN TEXT:

IT IS IN THIS LIGHT THAT MY DELEGATION LISTENED ATTENTIVELY TO THE DISCUSSION HERE OF THE SITUATION OF THE JEWS IN THE SOVIET UNION. WE HAVE MANY TIMES BEFORE VOICED OUR CONCERN NOT ONLY FOR THEIR CONDITION, BUT CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 06 STATE 052499

ALSO FOR THE BASIC RIGHTS OF OTHER MINORITY GROUPS IN THE SOVIET UNION, SUCH AS THE TARTARS AND THE UKRANIAN PEOPLE, AMONG OTHERS.

WE ARE OF THE VIEW THAT ALL MEMBERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS HAVE A LEGAL AND MORAL DUTY TO ASSURE THE EXISTENCE, IN ALL ITS ASPECTS, OF DIVERSE MINORITY GROUPS WITHIN ITS POPULATION. THE WORK OF OUR SUBCOMMISSION ON THE PROTECTION OF MINORITIES IS PREDICATED ON THIS UNDERSTANDING AND THIS DUTY.

ACCORDINGLY, WE WOULD URGE THE SOVIET UNION TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY STEPS TO ENSURE A FLOURISHING LIFE FOR ITS MANY MINORITIES. WE PARTICULARLY URGE THIS AS TO SOVIET JEWS, WHO CONSTITUTE MORE THAN THREE MILLION PEOPLE. WE DO NOT COMPREHEND ANY POLICY WHICH SERVES TO PRECLUDE EMIGRATION OF SOVIET JEWS WHO HAVE FAMILIES

OR CULTURAL TIES ELSEWHERE. WE ALSO WOULD HOPE THAT THE

CONDITIONS NECESSARY FOR CONTINUED NATIONAL IDENTITY OF THE JEWS IN THE SOVIET UNION WILL PREVAIL, FOR WE ARE CERTAIN THAT THE JEWS OF THAT COUNTRY WILL ADD AS MUCH TO RUSSIAN LIFE AS THE JEWS HAVE ADDED TO THE LIFE OF MY COUNTRY. THEIR DISTINCT CULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS IDENTITY ENHANCES LIFE; SUPPRESSION OF THIS IDENTITY WILL DIMINISH THE SPIRIT OF ALL SOVIET CITIZENS.

ALTHOUGH WE REALIZE THAT THE EVENTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST AROUSE THE PASSIONS OF MANY PEOPLE, WE WOULD URGE THE SOVIET UNION TO REVIEW THE WISDOM OF MOUNTING AN ANTI-ISRAELI CAMPAIGN WITH SOVIET JEWS AS THE MEMBERS OF THE ORCHESTRA. NO JEW, INDEED NO PERSON ANYWHERE SHOULD BE OBLIGED TO DENOUNCE HIS HERITAGE. IN THIS CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 07 STATE 052499

CONNECTION, WE WERE HEARTENED BY THE ARTICLE IN PRAVDA LAST WEEK WHICH DECLARED THAT THERE ARE ANTI-SEMITES AND ANTI-SEMITIC FEELING IN SOCIALIST COUNTRIES -- AS I MIGHT SAY THERE ARE IN ALMOST ALL COUNTRIES INCLUDING MY OWN. TO ACKNOWLEDGE A PROBLEM IS THE FIRST STEP IN FINDING A SOLUTION. WE NOTE TOO THAT THE NOTED SOVIET LEGAL SCHOLAR PROFESSOR M. S. STROGOVICH, STATED "EVERY CITIZEN HAS THE RIGHT FREELY TO CHOOSE HIS CITIZENSHIP, TO LIVE IN ONE STATE OR ANOTHER".

THESE ARE POSITIVE SIGNS, AND MY DELEGATION WELCOMES THEM AND HOPES FOR CONTINUED IMPROVEMENT OF THE LIFE OF JEWS AND OTHER MINORITIES IN THE SOVIET UNION WHOSE RIGHTS, IN OUR OPINION, HAVE NOT ALWAYS BEEN FULLY PRESERVED IN RECENT YEARS. END TEXT.

4. ACCORDING TO WHITE HOUSE PRESS OFFICE, PRESIDENT CARTER HAS MADE ONLY ONE (1) STATEMENT ON SOVIET JEWRY. IN HIS FIRST PRESS CONFERENCE HE EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH THE INCREASING RATE OF EMIGRATION OF SOVIET JEWS. VANCE

CONFIDENTIAL

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 26 sep 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, JEWS, DISCRIMINATION, RELIGIOUS GROUPS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE052499
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: IO/UNA:JFTEFFT:BJS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: D780094-0356
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197803126/baaafbyz.tel
Line Count: 258
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 3f675ebb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: STATE 52213
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3165477
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SUBJECT 34TH HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION STATEMENT ON SOVIET JEWRY
TAGS: SHUM, UNHRC
To: GENEVA NIACT INFO USUN N Y
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3f675ebb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014